PRICE FIVE CENTS. THIRTY-FOUR PAGES.

PUGILISTIC ENCOUNTER IN THE SENATE CHAMBER.

Tillman Had Charged That the Votes of His Colleague Had Been Purchased With Patronage, and McLaurin Denounced the Statement as a "Malignant Lie"-Then Tillman Jumped for Me-Laurin and Punched Him in the Head and a Free Fight Ensued - The Fighters Were Finally Separated, and the senate Went Into Executive Session.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 22.-In the Senate this afternoon Senator McLaurin of South Carolina called his colleague, Senator Tillman, a liar. Tillman, who sat a few seats away, jumped over to McLaurin's seat and punched him in the head. McLaurin struck back, and Senator Warren of Wyoming and Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms Layton grabbed the fighting Senators and held them apart.

After a moment's confusion McLaurin attempted to renew his speech, which he said had been so unceremonlously interrupted. Mr. Foraker (Rep., Ohio), rose to say that there should be some way to preserve the dignity of the Senate. Mr. Burrows (Rep., Mich.), shouted: "the Senate cannot afford to let this pass." Then Mr. Foraker moved that the Senate go into executive session, which was ordered.

The row occurred as a result of Senator Tillman's remarks made earlier in the day, when he charged that the vote of a Democratic Senator had been improperly secured for the ratification of the treaty with Spain. Mr. Spooner (Rep., Wis.) repeatedly demanded that Tillman name the Senator. This he refused to do, but finally said that it was a Senator who had since received the patronage of a State in return for his vote.

What State?" said Spooner "South Carolina," replied Tillman.

"Then," said Spooner, "I leave it to the Senator to fight it out with his colleague." Mr. McLaurin was not in the chamber at the time. He came in later and sat, with a typewritten paper in his hand, in his regular seat about fifty feet from Mr. Till-

man, in the same row of chairs. As soon as he got an opportunity Mr. McLaurin rose and apologized for bringing up a subject that had so often been referred to Then, looking directly at his colleague, he characterized his statement as a wilful, deliberate and malignant lie. Then Tillman jumped over the laps of his neighbors, Senators Teller and Warren of Wyo-

ming, who were temporarily seated on the Democratic side, and punched McLaurin in the forehead. McLaurin never flinched He stood straight and squared off for a fight. He struck out and hit Tillman in the head, but without doing any damage Mr. Teller called the Senator from South

Carolina to order. "Which Senator?" said Mr. McLaurin. "You," said Mr. Teller; "both of you, for

that ma ter." There was, of course, the greatest ex-

citement in the crowded galleries, but the Senators, as a rule, remained calm and minutes after the fight the galleries had been cleared, the doors of the Senate chamber were locked, and not a sound came through to indicate what was taking place inside.

The routine morning business having been disposed of, the Philippine Tariff bill was taken up in the Senate and Mr. Tillman (Dem., S. C.), who had been speaking yesterday up to adjournment, continued his speech against the whole Philippine policy. While he was discussing the question of the ratification of the Paris treaty he admitted that Mr. Bryan had used in fluence in favor of it, but said that it still lacked some votes, which had to be obfained by improper influence on the part of the Republicans. "And," he exclaimed in an excited manner, pointing at the Republican side of the chamber, "you know it "How did we get those votes?" Mr.

Spooner asked with an air of defiance. "I was informed of it in confidence b a Senator on the Republican side," Mr Tillman replied.

"Name the man," Mr. Spooner demanded "A man who will impeach a brother Senator without naming him is a coward. |Sensation). If the Senator from South Caro lina knows of any man who has knowledge of improper influence being used on Senators, it is his duty to himself and to the country to name him."

"I do know," said Mr. Tillman, "that the patronage of a State has been parceled out to a Senator for his vote. "What State?" Mr. Spooner, asked with

"South Carolina," Mr. Tillman replied. "Then." said Mr. Spooner, contemptously, "I leave it to the Senator to fight it out with his colleague [Mr. McLaurin], who is not present at this time."

"I am ready to meet him at any time here or anywhere," Mr. Tillman exclaimed. I never evade a statement which I make

I know that he voted for the treaty and I know that improper influences were brought to bear upon him. I know what I believe. "No," said Mr. Spooner sardonically, "you simply believe what you do not know." Laughter.1

This closed the episode, which was enjoyed by Senators and by the spectators the crowded the galleries, and Mr. Tillman went on with his speech. He soon go into a wordy altercation with Mr. Burton (Rep., Kan.), in regard to the charge that Gen. Funston had authorized the infliction of the watercure torture in the Philipnine Islands. Mr. Burton read the letter written by Gen. Funston denouncing the story as a malicious lie, and Mr. Lodge, chairman of the Philippine Committee asked Mr. Tillman to furnish the names of witnesses who could prove the charge, and promised that they would be sent for and their testimony taken.

"I will give you," Mr. Tillman replied, the name of Mr. Rex, who wrote the letter." "Mr. Rex did not see what he describes," said Mr. Lodge, and does not pretend

that he saw it. "The obvious purpose," Mr. Tiliman declared, "is to smother the truth and to let murder and rapine go on. Why do you not summon the lady who has lust returned from the islands, and who is a letter published this morning accuses the auhouses of debauchery? Send for her, will you? Quit dodging." [Laughter.] Soon after this Mr. Tillman fraished his

Southern Ry. to the Resorts South. Foremost in establishing high class service to the winter resorts in Florida and the South. All modern improvements are adopted. House of the Southern's pain Limited, N. Y. and St. Augustine, N. V. Offices, 273 and 1185 Droutings,—40:

TILLMAN AND M'LAURIN FIGHT speech and took his seat. As soon as he had done so his colleague (Mr. McLaurin) rose and said that during his absence to day the gentleman from South Carolina-"No," he said, by way of correction-"the Senator from South Carolina, who has just taken his seat, said that improper influences had been used in changing the vote of somebody on the treaty, and then went on later and said that it applied to the Senator from South Carolina who had been given

the patronage of that State. "I desire to say (and I would not use as strong language as I will do, had I not, soon after the Senate met, replied to that insinuation and said that it was untrue), that that statement is a wilful, deliberate and malignant lie.

The words had hardly been spoken before Mr. Tillman, with cat-like agility and ferocity, had crossed the narrow space which separated him from his antagonist, and before anybody could interfere to prevent it, the two Senators were pounding each other in close quarters. In an instant a dozen Senators had hold of the pugilists and drew them apart by main force, while all the other Sepators and spectators were shocked at the spectacle thus presented.

The presiding officer (Mr Frve) vainly used his gavel to restore order and to bring the Senate to its usual decorous condition. And finally, in order to give the Senate an opportunity to recover its dignity, an executive session was ordered, the doors were closed and the galleries were vacated.

In secret session and after a debate lasting more than two hours the Senate unanimously voted both Senators to be in contempt and then by a vote of 41 to 18 re ferred the matter to the Committee on Privileges and Elections for report.

In open session apologies were made by the two Senators, but no action was taken by the Senate to declare them purged of contempt. Tillman coupled his apology with a long statement, in substance declaring that under the circumstances he could not have acted otherwise. McLaurin while regretting the intemperate language, justified it by the brutal attack that had been made on his honor and integrity.

He began a warning in the nature of a threat against any future accusations that he was bribed to vote for the Paris treaty, but one of the Senators sitting near him persuaded him to sit down, leaving the sentence unfinished.

The Senate took no action on their apologies and did not remove the ban of contempt They addressed the Senate today by special vote of the body, but will not be permitted to speak again until permission is granted or the ban removed. This may not be for a week or ten days, or until after the committee has acted.

SOUTH CAROLINA SHOCKED. Fight Between Its Senators Has Aroused a Sense of Shame.

COLUMBIA, S. C., Feb. 22.-It was late this evening when the public heard of the fight in the Senate between the South Carolina Senators. The occurrence is regarded by the factions as shocking and disgraceful although McLaurin is considered justified in denouncing Senator Tillman's charges. A fight between them at this time was the last thing expected.

Last summer each Senator expressed himself in such language about the other that a personal difficulty was expected by some and would doubtless have occurred some time. It was expected that for the present they would confine their ill feeling to declarations on the stump and in the newspapers. Only the bitterest personal feeling against McLaurin could have made Senator Tillman lose control of himself and resent being called a liar in such a manner. It is the first time in his heated career of fourteen years that he has so noticed such a charge.

Time and again Senator Tillman has been charged with lying and other offences against morals, but he has not appealed to force to vindicate his character. It has been charged by some that McLaurin was afraid of Tillman. The affair to-day will therefore do McLaurin more good at home than harm, although many people here would have preferred seeing a different kind of a fight and one to a finish. The disgrace of the proceedings will be keenly felt in the rural districts, where Tillman has most friends, and will do him no good.

A great many persons are opposed to oth men, and while regretting the place selected for the fight, rejoice that they came to blows. Gov. McSweeney to-night expressed himself as shocked. He would take no sides in his remarks, but thought the people of the State would have a reckoning. When both men resigned at Gaffney last year it was childish and unworthy their high offices, he said, and now "they have brought additional disgrace upon South Carolina." The Gaffney meeting in April was the beginning of the ill feeling and the bitterness between the Senators.

PLACE FOR MISS ROOSEVELT. London Correspondent's Misinformation About Her Visit to the Coronation.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN. LONDON, Feb. 22.-The London corre spondent of the Liverpool Post has the

ollowing in his letter to his paper: "The case of Miss Roosevelt is causing perturbation in the Lord Chamberlain's

office. She is the delightful daughter of the American President, and having invited herself to be the guest of Mr. Choate for the coronation, she has calmly written that she wants a place among the peeresses.
"Precedence for the daughter of a repub-

lican President in itself seems topsy-turvy, and in this case there is no precedent for her precedence. The Gordian knot will probably be cut by the King granting her Ambassadorial rank."

OIL SHIP ALL AFIRE IN MID-SEA large American Wooden Salling Vessel -Passed on Feb. 4.

The Anchor Line steamship Karamania in yesterday from Mediterranean ports, ssed in midocean on Feb. 4 a large American wooden sailing vessel aftre from stem to stern. Her name had been burned away and only a part of her mizzenmast was standing. She was laden with case oil, which spread ablaze on the troubled surface of the sea all around the ship. The Karamania's captain, after making sure many from the vesse in the there were no men from the vesse in neighborhood, steamed on his course

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PRINCE HENRY HEARD FROM.

KRONPRINZ WILHELM SIGNALS NANTUCKET AT 9:22 P. M.

Due Here Early This Forenoon -- The Reception Programme for To-day Altered No Chance to Go to Grant's Tomb .- Deutsche Verein Recepiton Stands.

NANTUCKET, Mass., Feb. 22.-The Kronprinz Wilhelm exchanged signals with the Nantucket South Shoal lightship at 9:22 o'clock to-night. The steamer was about sixty miles from

the lightship when they got into communication All on board were well. The ship had

had very heavy weather.

The lightship is sixty miles off the Island of Nantucket and 209 nautical miles from Sandy Hook. The Kroppring Wilhelm being about sixty m'les south of the lightship when she was signalled, has roughly

215 m'les to make before she reaches this

The steamship on her storm'est former passage mide an average of more than 21 knots an hour. At this rate it would take her a little more than ten hours to reach her destination and that would bring her to the Hook about 7:30 o'clock this morning.

of this trip an hourly average of only about 1914 knots, but the weather conditions have improved and she is likely to complete her journey at the rate of about 22 knots.

The Kronprinz made in the earlier part

The wireless instrument on the Hobenzollern here had received nothing up to midnight.

Yesterday was not far advanced when any hope of welcoming Prince Henry was abandoned for twenty-four hours. the Lucania's bulletin from Liverpool, that she had exchanged wireless messages with the Kronprinz Wilhelm on Wednesday at 4:57, it was figured out by the nautical sharps that the Kronprinz was then about 1,360 miles west of Cherbourg and had averaged 19.42 knots.

It is probable that she could not better this in the terrific winter seas. She still had about 1,700 miles to cover to the Sandy Hook lightship. Maintaining this average it should take her ninety hours more to complete her trip, which it was figured out, should bring her off the lightship this morning.

The Cunarder Etruria, which has a wireess apparatus, sailed yesterday at 3 o'clock. All night long Operator Allen and his assistant took turns in watching their instruments for a remark from the Kronprinz, but up to sailing time none had been re-

Mr. Allen was in hopes of "picking up" the German steamer before the Etruria got to Sandy Hook. In that case the arrangement was that the Etruria would fly the German flag at her foremast as a signal to the operator at Sandy Hook that her Marconi system had got the Prince. The wires to Sandy Hook were all down.

PROGRAMME BEARBANGED.

The committee from Washington headed by Assistant Secretary of State Hill kept close to the Waldorf-Astoria all day long to prepare at once to make their call if the vessel was sighted. Mayor Low for the same reason kept close to his house m of the time with Secretary Reynolds. I in the afternoon when it was seen that calls could not possibly be made within the hours prescribed by official

new plans were laid for to-day.

The plans formed by the Washington committee are based on the arrival of the Kronprinz Wilhelm at her pier before the middle of the forenoon. The official calls will begin as seen as the Prince gets on board the Hohenzollern. Col. Bingham for the committee said that he and his associates would call as early as 10 o'clock.

The committee takes precedence over the Mayor, whose calling time depends on the hour of the committee's call.

Admiral Barker and Gen. Brooke will follow the Mayor. The German Ambassador and Consul are due to call about the

same time. CAN'T GO TO GRANT'S TOMB TO-DAY.

In these respects no change will be made in the programme arranged for yesterday. The change that will have to be made, even if the Prince reaches the pier early this morning, will be in all probability the abandonment of the trip to Grant's Tomb, where the Prince was to leave wreaths from the Engreror and himself. The abanfrom the Emperor and himself. The abandonment of this part of the programme will be advised by Col. Bingham and his associates. The latter said regarding the plans outlined for the day:

plans outlined for the day:
"It is our intention, providing the ship
gets in and we make our call in the forenoon, to explain the situation to the Prince noon, to explain the situation to the Prince and inform him just how we think the programme will have to be altered. The reason why I think that the trip to Grant's Tomb will be given up is because four hours is the prescribed limit in which the calls of Admiral Barker and Gen. Brooke must be returned. The Prince leaves for Washington at midnight and must therefore, it would appear, return these calls in the afternoon. There will therefore here he time for him to go to Grant's calls in the afternoon. There will there-fore be no time for him to go to Grant's Tomb, as he is due at the Deutsche Verein for dinner. Undoubtedly he will try to make the visit to the tomb at some other time, as we understand he is particularly desirous of seeing it and showing the respect which Gen. Grant's memory is held by

ol. Bingham said that he did not think that he or any of his associates would accompany the Prince on his calls at the Navy Tard or Governors Island. Admiral Evans would certainly go, as he is detailed as the Prince's special aide in addition to being a member of the committee.

As matters stood last night the President's representatives will, after making their cell return to the hotel and late in

dent's representatives will, after making their call return to the hotel and late in the evening will go to the Hohenzollern, there meet the Prince on his return from the Deutsche Verein and escort him by special ferryboat to Jersey City. The special train awaiting the party there on which the journey is to be made to Washington is scheduled to leave at midnight.

UNCHANGED SCHEDULE FOR TO-MORROW. The programme for the journey to Washington and for the Prince's visit there, which includes all of to-morrow, has in nowise been changed. The programme is for a short stop at Baltimore to-morrow morning about 9 o'clock Washington will be reached about 10:20. From the station morning about 9 o'clock Washington will be reached about 10:30. From the station the Prince will be escorted by two troops of cavalry to the White House, where he will be presented to the President and re-turn the call made by the latter through his delegates. The Prince will 'go from the White House to the Octuan Embassy will be there visited by the President

at the Embassy until 4 o'cleck in the after-noon, receiving calls from the diplomatic corps and C mmissioners of the District of Columbia. At 4 c'clock he will visit the Capitol and at 8 will dine with the Presi-To the Southwest via Atlanta and Montgomery. One day in Atlanta, using Scaboard Air Line to s train 27, known as "Scaboard Fast Mall, leaving W. 23d Street Ferry, P. R. R., 12:10 A. M. Sm. 193 April 40 M. Office, 183 Km.

The Prince will hold a general reception

dent at the White House. At midnight the Prince and his suite and the President and his will start on a special train by the Penn-sylvania Railroad for Jersey City whence the party will go to Shooter's Island for the launching.

RECEPTION AT THE DEUTSCHE VEREIN

Although the public will lose the opportunity to see the Prince at Grant's Tomb they will get a glimpse of him possibly when he goes from the Hohenzollern to the Deutsche Verein in West Fifty-ninth street for the dinner and reception there to-night. The Prince is expected to arrive at the clubhouse in Fifty-ninth street not later than 7.30. He will be escorted by a squad of mounted police and by one troop of Squadron A and the route the party will take will be through Thirty-fourth street to Fifth avenue, up Fifth avenue to Fifty-ninth street and west to the clubhouse, which is just west of Sixth avenue.

At the club the Prince will be the guest

At the club the Prince will be the guest a small dinner party to be given in a

at a small dinner party to be given in a private diningroom on the second floor and at which the guests will be limited to only seven or eight. These will include the Prince, several of his suite, the German Ambassador and Consui-General and President Rudolph Keppler of the club.

At the conclusion of the dinner the Prince will be taken downstairs and into the main banquet hall at the rear of the first floor. This will be cleared and the Prince and those with him will range themselves at one end of the room. Then the members of the club will form in line and pass by him, each being introduced to the Prince bers of the club will form in line and pass by him, each being introduced to the Prince probably by the German Ambassador, who is a member of the club. President Keppler will, however, form one of the group. The clubhouse has been decorated with palms, evergreens and a profusion of cut flowers. Over the entrance to the banquet hall the German emblem will be shown in electric lights. It is expected that seven or eight lights. It is expected that seven or eight hundred members of the club will take advantage of the opportunity afforded to

Admission to the club will be by tickets and special passes, as the extraordinary police precautions for the protection of the Prince will go on this occasion, as in all Prince will go on this occasion, as in all others. It is probable that the public will not be able to get within a block of the club. Detectives will be inside and outside

MAYORS OF BERLIN AND NEW YORK SHAKE Greetings were exchanged yesterday between the Mayor of Berlin and Mayor Low. Mayor Kirschner of Berlin sent this

message.

On this day when New York greets the brother of the Kaiser as its guest we cordially express our joy over the close friendship of America and Germany and our hope of its tinuance and strengthening.
KIRSCHNER, Mayor of Berlin

To this Mayor Low replied: On behalf of the city of New York, I reciprocate your cordial greetings New York will welcome Prince Henry with all heartiness. With you we hope that his visit will to much to strengthen the bonds that have been strengthen the bonds that have always united our two countries in an e-dearing friendship. SETH LOW, Mayor.

DIE WACHT AM HUDSON.

The Emperor's vacht, Hohenzollern and the recreation pier at the foot of West Thirty-fourth street, at which she is tied Thirty-fourth street, at which support reception of the Emperor's brother by noon yesterday. The last piece of bunting was hung, the last tiny incandescent lamp in the two strings around the hull of the ship was strings around the hun of the strings around the hun of adjusted and His Royal Highness's royal gang plank, gorgeously decorated in royal purple, had been made to connect yacht purple, had been made to connect whistless and pier a few minutes before the whistles on the river craft and the whistles along the western border of Hell's Kitchen tooted

the western border of Hell's Kitchen tooted the hour of noon
Then Admiral Count von Baudissin and his officers and men aboard the yacht sat down calmly, as Teutons are wont to do, and waited for news. And the German piermen, watching for signs from the yacht as to the proper conduct, sat down and waited. And 200 policemen under Inspector Harley and Capts, Schmittberger and Wendell watching for a sign from the piermen, stood up and waited.

HOHENZOLLERN AND PIER DECORATED. The pier decorations followed a simple scheme, that being bunting of the national colors of Germany, and lots of it. Flying from the pier shed roof, however, was an American flag, which was large enough to American flag, which was large enough to the color of the c an if it didn't snov vacht was dressed, as yachts are usually dressed for gala occasions, with signal flags and ensigns from bowsprit to tafirail At the fore and mizzen masts flew the flag of the German Navy. No distinctive flag flew from the main, and for a definite and distinct reason. That place for flag dis-play must be kept clear until the moment e Henry steps on the deck of the yacht Then the royal German standard wi run up at the mainmast and the U States of America will know officially

Prince Henry of Prussia has arrived.

Rear Admiral Robley D. Evans, commanding the squadron that is to receive the Prince, was waiting on or near his flagship, the Illinois, off Tompkinsville for the serving of that royal standard that he the raising of that royal standard that he might know when to order his second salute of twenty-one guns. One of the Admiral's aides spent most of yesterday afternoon aboard the yacht to see when there was going to be something doing there was going to be something doing with that royal standard.

with that royal standard.

The only other decorations on the yacht were a double string of small incandescent lamps running all around the hull of the boat. One string circled the craft just above the waterline and the other followed above the watering and the other hands the rail around. The Prince's gang plank, highly polished and draped with royal purple crepe, connected pier and yacht at the boat's after-gangway, the one nearest the river. The starboard rail of the gang he river. The starboard and scent lights

AMBASSADOR VON HOLLEBEN CALLS.

AMBASSADOR VON HOLLEBEN CALLS.

About 10 o'clock yesterday morning the German Ambassador, Pr. von Holleben, having come on from Washington, boarded the yacht to make a call upon the officers. He wore plain clothes, and there were no fuss and feathers about receiving him. He just walked aboard, said, "Howd'y" to Admiral von Baudissin and went below, where he stayed for an hour. When Lieut. Rebensburg was asked about the Ambassador's call he said:

"Oh, he just came to say how do you do to the officers. He was not in uniform, and he was received with no ceremony. We have received no word from the Kron-

and he was received with no ceremony. We have received no word from the Kronprinz yet, and we have been asked by the operator at Nantucket not to attempt to communicate with her, since it will interfere with his work. Our instruments are here, however, and if any news of the ship happens to stray this way, we shall get it. Otherwise we will not have any advance information. It was arranged, however. information. It was arranged, however, before we left the other side that should the ship not be sighted off Sandy Hook before 4 o'clock on any day she would not come up the bay that night, but remain at anchor at Quarantine until the following morning, so that the Prince might see the harbor by daylight. Unless the Prince changes the arrangement it will remain in force."

Lieut.Rebensburg said that the apartments to be occupied by the Prince aboard the yacht include a suite of four rooms directly off the Emperor's suite. The rooms to be occupied by the Prince's suite are those Almost all the officers of the Hohen-blern went to the Irving Place Theatre before the end came.

last night by invitation. DEATH CAME IN ROBBIBLE GUISE When the rumors of deaths were whis Squadron Awalts the Word. pered down the staircases and shouted ON BOARD FLAGSHIP LLANOIS, Tompkinsacross the streets men looked one another file, Staten Island, Feb. 22 -In view of

the heavy storm it is not believed that the

Kronprinz Wilhelm wift be up before

Superheated Dry Air (Sprague Method)

Evans stationed a tug at Quarantine which will signal in case the ship's arrival is heard of and he remained on shore with his staff. knowledged all at once. Death came to Florida, Winter at Tampa Bay Hotel The staff are Capt. George A. Converse, Chief Flag Lieutenant: F. L. Chapin, Flag Lieutenant, and Eosiga G. T. Evans, aide.

An Adequate Train Service ew York Central. See Century Dictionary

who were killed were burned to death. The main stairway of the hotel was

two other stairways at the back, but a great many of the guests did not know of these, and some who did know be-Startling Theory Advanced came frightened, panic-stricken and forgot. The hotel is seven stories high. Up as far as the sixth floor the stairways by Proprietor. are all iron. Between the sixth and seventh floors the stairway is of wood. When the fire came as it did through the elevator shaft on both sides of the stairway it set fire to the wood and the wood burned with a tremendous fierceness, and in an incredi-

DEAD WERE ROBBED.

Floors Were Looted, Too.

starts an Investigation at Once.

Grim disaster stalked a long stride down

nitrogelatin explosion. Yesterday

avenue since the new year came in.

snatch plunder amid death and torture.

BELIEVE VANDALS DID IT.

the sixteer and the injuries of the many.

But District Attorney Jerome, Fire Com-

was at the bottom of the horror.

excitement of remembered battles.

quarters this invariable answer:

that fire; go back to bed."

don't worry about us."

BLIND TO THE DANGER.

No, sir, no, madame, there is no danger;

fire; go back to bed. You are as safe as

though you were a thousand miles from

while the hotel was in safety, went again

"Are you getting your people out?"
"Why should we?" was the reply, in the

weary monotony of the man who is sick

with the need of answering the same un-

necessary question as though he was a

parrot in a bird store. "Why should we?

There is no danger in this hotel, and if it

did catch fire anywhere it would not burn;

up through Thirty-third street, brushing

aside the protests of policemen, ignoring

the prayers and oaths of fire captains,

who were floundering about in the knee-

deep slush with their men, and who needed

every inch of space in the street for their

work. Out of them stepped women in the

gay costumes in which they had come

from opera, theatre or ball, and after one

or two reassuring inquiries as to the pos-

A great multitude saw all these things;

one of those crowds that gathers at any

hour of night to watch flames and the work

of firemen, and when curiosity and excite-

nent changed suddenly to horror and

the knowledge that human lives were being

upper part of the hotel, to every man in

that men and women were dying who might

hat crowd came the sickening feeling

in the face and with horrified voices, said:

the truth. It was too horrible to be ac-

Bunting, Fishing. Information at 200 B'way

snuffed out no one knew how fast in the

sibility of danger, went up to their rooms

in the hotel-to die, some of them.

Carriages full of men and women rolled

and again to the office and asked:

gridiron. At the head of these wooden stairs on He Says That All the Upper the seventh floor when the firemen, after such a fight as only New York firemen reeling with smoke-suffocation, their eyebrows scorched and their hands blistered, can make when lives are at stake, they found charred bodies lying in heaps on the

have been an avenue of escape for every

one on the seventh floor were a blazing

in the front of the building. There were

floor. On the third floor as they fought up into the flames they found one body, on the Seventeen tre Dead of the Disaster That fourth two, on the fifth floor two dead and Befell the Park Avenue Hotel in the seven or eight unconscious, and on the Storm Yesterday Morning, and More sixth more bodies of dead, dying and stupefied than they had time to count, but on Than Thirty Are Down With Burns the seventh floor they found themselves and Other Injuries-Police and Fire floundering around in the smoke trampling Department People in Doubt as to on bodies dead and alive until it seemed as though there were a score or more of corpses Whether the Hotel Caught From the heaped there. There was no need to tell Armory Fire-The Evidences of Infiremen how these poor folk died. cendiarism - District Attorney Jerome

ALARM THAT CAME TOO LATE.

When at last the false security of the hour-and-a-half brilliant armory spectacle had been broken and the halls of the Park avenue in the early hours of yesterhotel began to fill with smoke most of day morning. Disaster has liked Park those who got the alarm ran instinctively toward the stairway which they most used. first step was a railroad collision; her The smoke was so thick that in it a man could not see his hand before him, and many t was fire. Seventeen are dead of it. Thirty a one who did not know that there were and more are injured. And all of these flames within a hundred feet of him was surrounded by a sheet of fire and burned horrors occurred within a mile of one to death before he was aware of the danger.

Those who were hurt or killed were men The positions of the bodies told the story and women who many of them had been in many instances of how some, running sitting in the Park avenue hotel windows with their hands before them through the smoke-clogged halls, turned the corner for two hours before death came, revelling in the wonderful spectacle which was furinto that front corridor of the hotel and nished by a fire in the Seventy-first Regiwere smitten dead by the swirling eddies ment Armory across the street from them. of flame that were invisible behind the pall until it was too late to flee from them. A fire-not the same fire. For there is reason to believe that the fire in the Park Here and there one or two were found who Avenue Hotel started independently of had suffocated by smoke. One man, a war veteran, Col. Alexander the fire in the armory. There is more than plausible reason for believing that the hotel

F. Piper, was brought through the whole was set on fire by robbers who hoped to danger only to die of heart disease induced by the horror of the scenes through which he had passed. Another, made mad with fright because he could not find his It may easily happen that the hand of way in the smoke clouds which filled the he law will never be laid on any man to corridors of the hotel where no fire had hold him to responsibility for the deaths of come or was to come, ran to his window and jumped out. He fell three stories and was killed on the roof of a stable beneath. missioner Sturgis, Fire Chief Croker, Fire Others who were within twenty steps

Marshal Friel were all busy yesterday of the safe back stairs olimbed out of their afternoon in stern pursuit of the man who windows and clung precariously to the sleet-sheathed sills until the firemen came Only one who was in the streets near the with extension ladders and scaling ladhotel last night can feel altogether the ders and rescued them, while down in the miserable needlessness of the disaster. street a frantic crowd who had lost all The great blaze in the armory was roaring interest in the fire as a spectacle shouted up toward the sky; thousands of musket hysterically in tremulous chorus and incartridges were sounding a racket such as dividual appeal: "Don't jump; for God's sake, don't jump; you are safe." made old soldiers flush and throw back their heads and laugh and swear with the

BELIEVES ROBBERS SET IT

With a full realization of the awful charge which he is making against human nature, Frederick T. Reed of Reed & Barnett, proprietors of the hotel, calmly and sternly states his belief that these horrible things driven sparks and fire brands. Sometimes were the result of the plot of a gang of beams from the armory, glowing and blazrobbers. In substantiation of his belief, ing, went floating like bits of burning paper, Mr. Reed calls attention to the presence in the open courtyard around which the went floating up in the spark clouds and burned and fell to pieces while they watched. hotel building is built of a barrel of oil Every little while some guest of the hotel, which had been moved out of its regular frightened by the chunks of fire that banged place and which had been opened with apparent rough carelessness by the use of

against the windows, heaped up on the outer sills and seemed to be falling thick as the flakes of any snowstorm on the roof From the place where this barrel stands above, made an inquiry at the office. Someto near the foot of the elevator shaft were times the guests went down and asked the many spots where oil had been spilled. clerks in the office whether there was any Reed believes that the fire started at danger; sometimes they used the speaking the foot of that elevator shaft and spread tubes, and the weary clerks, confident by up through it to deal death and destruction experience with many small fires that the to the floors above. whole house was really and literally fireproof, drawled out for an hour and three-

The proprietor's theory is supported by the statement of Battalion Chief Ross of the Fire Department, a man known all through the department as one of the most conservative and intelligent who wear a his hotel is not on fire, and cannot catch fire uniform, that the hotel fire did start at the foot of that elevator shaft. Chief Ross backs up his statement with a clear explanation of his reasons for making it. Outsiders, reporters, policemen and mere He does not, however, say that the fire was spectators in that hour and three-quarters of incendiary origin. He says simply

that he does not know how the fire started. SAW THE START OF THE FIRE

Finally there is testimony of several guests of the hotel, but especially of George May, an Atlanta capitalist, who has recently come to this city, and of his daughter, Ethel. The Mays, who have not the interest of the proprietor or the professional pride of the firemen, who hates to believe that he has let a fire spread from one building to another, declare that they saw with their own eyes the beginning of that fire

at the bottom of the elevator shaft. Perhaps the easiest way to understand how a fire that merely touched one side of the four upper floors of the hotel could cause so many deaths is to follow the graphic narrative of Battalion Chief Ross in telling how the firemen went at their work.

The plan of the hotel itself is simple built around a great open court. There are rooms facing toward the court on each floor and rooms facing outward, with continuous cerridors between these rooms running clear around the hotel on each floor. The main stairway begins opposite the main entrance of the hotel on Park part to another than it did to get a line avenue. There are two flights between every two floors. One of them is a broad single flight that

goes to a landing half way up. Then at the landing two narrower flights go on up to the floor above. This arrangement is of the hotel, and, as has been said, the steps and the frames on which they rest and the baiustrades below the sixth floor are all of iron. Between the sixth and seventh floors they are of wood.

The other stairways are in the opposite side of the hotel-the west side. There third floor," continued Chief Ross. is one at the Thirty-third street end of the fire was down as far as that then and the "It is a lie," though they knew that it was

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the victims in terrible guise. Most of those west side and one at the Thirty-second

street end. THE DEADLY ELEVATOR SHAFTS. There are numerous elevator shafts. The two which did all the mischief are

those that run from top to bottom of the building on each side of the main staircase. These shafts are very large. They are much wider and broader than the elevators that run through them and which travel between guidebeams that stick well out from the sides of the shafts There is almost a foot of clear space except for these guidebeams all around the elevator.

All the hotel call wires and fire alarm wires and telephone wires run through a bly short time the fifty steps which should little separate shaft that was within a foo of the elevator shaft on the righthand side on the stairway. The roof of the hotel is asphalted and the asphalt is covered with gravel.

Now for the story of Chief Ross, told as he conducted a SUN reporter from the office floor to the seventh floor of the building, illustrating everything he said almost with a visible illustration of the place and the manner of each happening. Ross is a man of medium height, with reddish hair and mustache, and cold gray eyes. He has a face that would mark him as one who knows his business in any walk of life he chose to follow. His jaw is firm, he speaks with clean-cut decision and without the slightest trace of any affectation or of any knowledge that he a trade as hazardous as the soldier's and with none of the soldier's rests between wars.

His reputation lives up to his looks. He was singled out of a company seven years ago by a Tammany commissioner and made assistant foreman at the recommendation of old man Bonner, who said he was the most promising young fireman in the department. The reform administration immediately promoted him again when coming into office because of his good work and lately a Tammany administration made him a battalion chief. Here is his story

BATTALION CHIEF ROSS'S STORY.

"I was walking through the lobby of the hotel with the idea of seeing whether here was any danger of a panic there. I could not see any imminent danger of a fire. I knew the roof was asphalted and that bonfires could have been built all over it without burning down through it. My men reported that there were no fires on the upper floors and we could see that there were no windows open. We could see that from the outside.

"Now and then windows were opened. but people were always in the rooms where that happened. The hotel people had men on the roof sweeping off cinders and had their watchmen and one or two extra men patrolling the halls. I do not say, mind. that if I had been the manager of that hotel I would have let people sleep in their rooms with a fire as big as the armory fire on the diagonally opposite corner, but I can very easily understand why he thought that his hotel would not catch fire. I did not

think that it would myself. "As I was passing the elevator door on the lefthand side of the main stairway I saw a glow like that of the reflection of flames in the shaft. I ran at once to the glass door, which was closed, and locked up the shaft. I could see only as high as the third story. There was no fire there. but the glow was brighter up above. I ran across to the other elevator and the shaft was full of fire.

"The elevator was just coming down as I got there and I caught a glimpse of a blaze in the pit under the elevator. There was fire all around the sides of the elevator. I ran up two flights of stairs and again looked into the lefthand shaft I could see up to the top of the house. The shaft was in a blaze at the seventh and sixth floors and the fire was jumping down toward the fifth floor as I looked. I dashed downstairs as quick as my legs would take me and ran out to the street.

HOTEL LOBBY WAS CROWDED.

"The lobby of the hotel was full of people. They were chatting and laughing as unconcernedly as though there was a convention going on around the house somewhere. I saw one or two people pointing at the elevator shafts and there were chunks of burning wood and cinders dropping down behind the glass doors in both shafts. I seemed to be the only man who was scared. As I was running out looking back over my shoulder I bumped into somebody in the doorway, who damned me for a clumsy fool. On the sidewalk I found

"'Chief, II said. 'the hotel is going. The top floors are all gone to hell. It's all around the elevator shafts up there.' The Chief asked how did it get in. I said 'God knows.' He said Get lines in there as quick as you can.' He jumped into the hotel and I jumped out into the street. *The first company I found was Engine 26

The engine was up to its hubs in slush and paving stones and Rapid Transit timbers over on Thirty-second street. The men were all up on the roof of the Metropolitan street car stables with a line which was playing on the armory wall. It was the devil's own job to get those men down and to get the line started toward the hotel "You know, if you were up here at the time, it was all that an unencumbered man

could do to make his way through the street. and you had to shout in a man's ear if you wanted to make him hear anything. "But why," Chief Ross was asked, "had not an engine or several engines been stationed around the hotel with lines stretched,

ready for the emergency." "Where would we have put an emergency line if we had one?" answered the Chlef. Yankee fashion. "It would have been of no use to us on the roof, because there wasn't any fire on the roof. If we had got a line up to any part of the hotel it would have taken longer to change it from that up from the street, finally. If the fire had started in any room of the hotel it could

and would have been put out with a hand extinguisher in five minutes." It is true that on more than one occasion rooms in the Park Avenue Hotel have rue of the stairs from the top to the bottom | caught fire and have been burned out like the inside of an oven without communicating the flames to any other room or 10

DESPERATE FIGHT OF THE FIREMEN. "I went up the stairs with the men of Engine 26 and we found the Chief at the

On Wednesday morning, Feb. 26, at the Metro politan Opera House, after removing the deco-tions used the night previous Mr. Thorley will at them without reserve to those desiring sourch of the gala night of opera in honor of Prince Henr-Adr

E. & W.

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